

**STATE SENATOR • GILDA Z. JACOBS • 14TH DISTRICT**

# **Jacobs Press Release**

P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • 517-373-7888 • Fax: 517-373-2983  
E-mail: [sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov) • [www.senate.michigan.gov/dem/SD14](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/dem/SD14)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**January 25, 2005**

**CONTACT: Sen. Gilda Jacobs**  
**(D-Huntington Woods)**  
**517/ 373-7888**

## **JACOBS JOINS COLLEAGUES IN SUPPORT OF MINIMUM WAGE HIKE**

**Jacobs: “We’re paying today’s workers with yesterday’s wages.”**

**FARMINGTON HILLS** – Sen. Gilda Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods) has announced her support of legislation that would raise Michigan’s non-wait staff minimum wage to \$7.15 per hour over a two-year period. The package also ties future increases for both wait and non-wait workers to the rate of inflation to compensate for cost of living increases. The federal minimum wage was last increased in 1997.

A full-time worker earning the current \$5.15 rate earns \$10,712 a year. Some 40 percent of minimum wage workers are the sole breadwinners for their families.

“A \$10,712 annual income is \$5,000 below the federal poverty level for a family of three,” Sen. Jacobs said. “And, it is unconscionable to expect workers to provide an adequate standard of living for their families, especially when their earnings have failed to keep up with inflation.”

Sen. Jacobs, who was joined by Rep. Aldo Vagnozzi, Rep. Andy Meisner, Rep. Paul Condino, Rep. Marie Donigan, and Don Boggs (?), urged her colleagues to show their support for Michigan’s families by joining the growing number of states opting to raise minimum wages in the absence of action at the federal level.

Raising the minimum wage by two dollars an hour would directly benefit at least 464,000 Michigan workers or one in six hourly workers statewide. Additionally, minimum wage workers are most likely to spend their income locally resulting in a boost to local businesses as well as to the state’s economy.

To date, some 15 states have established a minimum wage higher than the federal level, including Illinois, Florida, New York, and Maine, with more expected to follow. Four states have indexed their minimum wage to the rate of inflation. The efforts are overwhelmingly supported by voters and have wide bipartisan support.

“This is all about fairness,” said Sen. Jacobs. “This is about allowing workers and families the dignity of earning an adequate wage. Anything less is simply unacceptable, in both public policy and human terms. It’s time to support fair wages for everyone.”

# # #

*State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, and Southfield. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.*